Alberta

News release

Budget 2008
THE RIGHT PLAN FOR
TODAY & TOMORROW

April 22, 2008

Budget 2008 addresses population growth pressures, workforce challenges in health

Health and Wellness spending rises to $13 billion

Budget highlights:

- *Health and Wellness program spending increases by $1.1 billion, or 9.1 per cent, to $13.2 billion.*
- *Base operating funding to health authorities increases by $524 million to $7.1 billion, an average eight per cent increase.*
- *$1.4 billion for capital projects in 2008-09 including infrastructure projects, information systems development and the purchase of vaccines. Total includes $1.3 billion for capital grants to health authorities. Over $3.3 billion in capital support is planned over the next three years. This is an increase of $294 million over the previous plan, with $151 million of this increase for capital maintenance and renewal.*
- *An additional $20 million addresses workforce priorities. Funding is over and above dollars already provided through the province's Health Workforce Action Plan.*
- *$157.5 million for health promotion and injury and disease prevention. Of this funding, $3.7 million will be used to implement an infection prevention and control strategy and standards.*
- *$29 million allocated for initiatives under the Crime Reduction and Safe Communities Task Force, including increasing the number of mental health and residential treatment beds, as well as introducing comprehensive mental health services for inmates.*

Edmonton... A nine per cent increase in Alberta's health and wellness spending will address population growth pressures and workforce challenges and, at the same time, support the improved efficiency of health system services and operations. The Health and Wellness budget will grow to $13.2 billion in 2008-09, up $1.1 billion or 9.1 per cent over last year.

"This budget honors our previous commitments in critical areas, like workforce shortages, long-term care, mental health, and infection prevention and control," said Ron Liepert, Minister of Health and Wellness. "It also addresses our mandate of improving access to health care and making the system more effective and efficient.

More funding for health authorities
Base operating funding for health authorities will increase by $524 million, an average of eight per cent, to $7.1 billion. This funding provides for acute, long-term and continuing care, public and community health, mental health services, cancer treatment, home care as well as transplant surgery, cardiac surgery and renal dialysis.

Additional funding to address workforce priorities
An additional $20 million has been allocated to address workforce priorities. This funding is over and above dollars already provided through the province's Health Workforce Action Plan. In 2008-09, $48.5 million is included in the Employment and Immigration budget for the Health Workforce Action Plan.

A focus on disease prevention
Wellness and disease prevention are key factors in ensuring the long-term health of Albertans and the long-term sustainability of the health system. In 2008-09, funding for health protection, health promotion and disease prevention is more than $157 million. This total includes $3.7 million for the implementation of an infection prevention and control strategy and standards as well as $1.2 million for the prevention of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

Financial support for health facilities
The 2008-11 Capital Plan will support $3.3 billion in health commitments, an increase of $294 million over the previous plan. Of this increase, $151 million is designated for capital maintenance and renewal projects.

Funding will support initiatives such as:

- expansion of the emergency and ambulatory care departments at the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre, developing three new community health clinics and constructing a new long-term care facility in the Northern Lights Health Region;
- development of new cancer radiation therapy centres in Lethbridge, Red Deer and Grande Prairie; and
- construction of more than 600 new and 200 replacement long-term care beds.

Budget 2008 meets commitments to Albertans today while prudently planning for tomorrow.

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Backgrounder: 2008-09 Health Authority Operating Grants

2008-04713/

Media inquiries may be directed to:
Michael Shields, Communications, Alberta Health and Wellness 780-427-7164

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Backgrounder

April 22, 2008

2008-09 Health Authority Base Operating Grants

(rounded to the nearest $ million)

Health Authority	2007-08 Forecast	2008-09 Allocation	Dollar Change
Chinook Health	$287 million	$304 million	$17 million
Palliser Health Region	$162 million	$172 million	$10 million
Calgary Health Region	$2,197 million	$2,387 million	$190 million
David Thompson Health Region	$518 million	$549 million	$31 million
East Central Health	$209 million	$226 million	$17 million
Capital Health	$2,298 million	$2,497 million	$199 million
Aspen Regional Health	$225 million	$239 million	$14 million
Peace Country Health	$217 million	$234 million	$17 million
Northern Lights Health Region	$139 million	$148 million	$9 million
Subtotal	*$6,252 million*	*$6,756 million*	*$504 million*
Alberta Cancer Board	$278 million	$294 million	$16 million

Alberta Mental Health Board	$58 million	$62 million	$4 million
Total Allocation	**$6,588 million**	**$7,112 million**	**$524 million**

Source: Budget 2008

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